

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending and stand rejected in the application. This communication amends claims 2, 3, 6-8, 10, 11, and 14-18; cancels claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 12 and 13; and adds claims 22-83.

1. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

2. Claims 4-8 and 12-18 stand withdrawn under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because they are multiple dependent and depend from other multiple dependent claims. This objection is respectfully traversed as claims 3-8 and 11-18 were amended in the previous response filed on May 3, 2004 to eliminate multiple dependencies. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully urged and consideration of claims 6-8 and 14-18 on the merits is requested in the next Office Action.

3. Claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,333,255 to Damouth.

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been canceled and new independent claims 22, 38, 53, and 69 each reciting “a plurality of discrete screens spaced physically apart from one another” are being added. The Damouth patent fails to expressly or inherently describe a visual display system with such a structure.

Damouth merely describes an apparatus having a visual display that displays on a surface thereof a plurality of 2-dimensional display regions. (Damouth, column 3, lines 63-66). The display regions of Damouth are not discrete screens spaced physically apart from one another, as presently claimed. The display regions in Damouth denoted by reference numerals 28-31 “represent all or a portion of a document and that, individually, each of the display regions 28-31 represents a page of the document having an associated page number.” (Damouth, column 8 lines 37-40). Hence, for at least this reason, the Damouth patent does not anticipate the subject matter recited in independent claims 22, 38, 53, and 69.

The Damouth patent also fails to expressly or inherently describe the subject matter of the dependent claims including a visual indicator that moves to a different z axis coordinate, but the

same x-y coordinate (e.g., claims 6, 14, 36, 51, 67, and 82) and a visual indicator whose movement from one screen to another gives the appearance of providing a visual bridge between the screens (e.g., claims 7, 15, 37, 52, 68, and 83). The Damouth patent also fails to expressly or inherently describe software supplemental to software drivers for the input device that causes the visual indicator to move from one of the plurality of screens and onto another one of the plurality of screens, as recited in independent claims 38 and 69 and dependent claims 35 and 66.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

4. Claims 7 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Damouth in view of U.S. Patent 6,075,531 to DeStefano.

As discussed above, Damouth fails to expressly or inherently describe the presently claimed screens, visual indicators and software. DeStefano fails to cure the deficiencies of Damouth, as DeStefano merely describes a computer system and method for manipulating multiple windows with a proximity pointer. Thus, Damouth in view of DeStefano fail to disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter presently recited in the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

5. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested as it is believed that all outstanding issues have been addressed herein and, further, that remaining claims 2, 3, 6-8, 10, 11, 14-18, and 22-83 are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions or matters whose resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the examiner is cordially invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

6. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee of \$521.00 for additional claims and the payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17, which are associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2061.

Respectfully submitted,

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